

101 ERB/RFB
25 SEP 56

S-E-C-R-E-T

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : ☐ ☐

ACTION: FE 7

INFO : COP, FI, FI/OPS, FI/RQM 3, FI/RI 2, PP 2, PP/OPS, SR 3, DD/1, AD/CI, S/C 2

CS-104654

☐ 6398 (IN30043)

1024Z 25 SEP 56

ROUTINE

PRECEDENCE

CITE: ☐

TO DIR

NOFORN CONTINUED CONTROL

RE DIR 29985 (OUT 82355)

FJT-992. DIST: F G. INFO RECD 20 SEPT FROM JAPANESE JOURNALIST (B); FROM

CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF SONODA SUNAO (F); FROM JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMANTS

(F). EVAL OF CONTENT: 3. DATE OF INFO: 19 SEPT 1956.

RE FJT-884 TACS-103175

MUCH SPECULATION WITHIN JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON WHY FOREIGN
MINISTER SHIGEMITSU MAMORU SUDDENLY GAVE IN TO SOVIET DEMANDS IN MOSCOW.
ONE WIDELY SUPPORTED THEORY FOLLOWS:

WHEN SHIGEMITSU LEFT FOR MOSCOW, NEITHER HE NOR ANY OF JAPAN'S TOP-LEVEL
DIPLOMATS KNEW THAT AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY MINISTER KONO ICHIRO HAD PREVIOUSLY
ADMITTED TO SOVIET PREMIER BULGANIN THAT JAPAN WOULD BREAK DOWN IN FACE OF
STRONG SOVIET STAND ON TERRITORIAL ISSUE. (SOURCE COMMENT. ACCORDING TO
CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF SONODA SUNAO, IT IS COMMONLY ACCEPTED THAT KONO MADE
SUCH AN ADMISSION TO BULGANIN. KONO HAS BEEN FORCED TO TACITLY ADMIT THIS
IN VIEW OF REPORTS WHICH SHIGEMITSU SENT FROM MOSCOW, AND FROM WHAT SHIGEMITSU
HAS SAID SINCE HE RETURNED.) SHIGEMITSU LEARNED THIS DIRECTLY FROM SOVIET
LEADERS WHEN HE CONFERRED WITH THEM IN MOSCOW. (PORTION GARBLED - BEING SERVICED)

FILE IN: ☐

CE 2

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE :

S-E-C-R-E-T

ROUTING

4	
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6	

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ACTION:

INFO :

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PAGE 2

PRECEDENCE

UNDERCUT BY WHAT KONO HAD ALREADY SAID WAS ONE OF MAIN REASONS HE CAME TO FEEL THAT CONTINUED RESISTANCE WAS HOPELESS. (SOURCE COMMENT. ACCORDING TO SONODA SUNAO, SHIGEMITSU WAS NOT SHOWN ANY MILITARY DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE INTIMIDATED HIM. HIS CHANGE OF HEART CAME FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE, AND NOT FROM EVIDENCE OF MILITARY POWER.)

WASH ONLY: SOURCE ☐ FROM ☐ AND ☐ FROM UNDISCLOSED FORMIN SOURCES. BOTH ☐ AND ☐ CLOSE TO SONODA, ALTHOUGH SONODA NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BY EITHER IN THIS CASE. MOST OF INFO CAME FROM ☐ THIS IS INTERIM REPLY TO REF. ☐ HAS NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY REQUERY SONODA DIRECTLY.

END OF MESSAGE

*Some time in
EF TDCS-103175. ☐
was ~~convinced~~ believed Shigemitsu may have
changed his position because, after receiving the
he had been convinced that in case of a loss war
between USSR + U.S., the USSR would win.*

S-E-C-R-E-T

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